**TRAINING REPORT TEMPLATE**

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| ***TITLE/TOPIC*** | Capacity building on the production of fodder under supplementary irrigation |
| ***ORGANIZING UNIT/PROJECT*** | International Water Management Institute in Collaboration with University of Development Studies and the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture |
| **DATE AND LOCATION** | 12 August 2015 |
| **RATIONALE OF THE TRAINING** | Farmers in Northern, Upper East and Upper West Regions of Ghana rely on rain-fed agriculture for their livelihood. They rear animals including cattle, sheep, goats and pigs, which depend on natural pastures and on crop residues from rain-fed crop farming. Naturally growing grass and pastures are available in the wet season but the quality and quantity run out during the dry season largely due to low soil moisture and bush fires. Farmers tend to let their animal roam and graze freely due to lack of animal fodder. However, it appears there is a growing demand for animal feed in the region. There is very limited knowledge or information on irrigated fodder production in Ghana.  This work intends to pilot the production of fodder in the northern region through the use of elephant grass (*Pennisetum purpureum*), a perennial grass, to provide feed to livestock in both dry and rainy seasons. The excess fodder produced will be used for sale at the nearby Tamale market. Elephant grass yields of over 40,000 kg/ha has been reported in the humid zone of Ghana. The rain-fed crop-livestock production system requires demonstration of effective water management interventions to enhance productivity. In particular, forage production is often affected by rainfall irregularities and is actually scarce during the dry season. This activity component will explore with farmers, the potential for adopting irrigated forage production in northern Ghana. |
| OBJECTIVES | To inform the farmers techniques in water management for irrigated fodder production.  To provide skills for fodder production to smallholder farmers of Duko in Northern Ghana.  To equip farmers with necessary skills for irrigated farming of animal fodder |
| COURSE OUTLINE/DESCRIPTION | Two topics were covered:   1. Water Management of Animal Fodder 2. Planting and Management of Napier Grass |
| **PARTICIPANTS ATTENDED** (please break down by gender, and grouping (country, research centers, community, private professional, civil society, government professional, etc.) | 10 men and 5 women smallholder farmers |
| CORE COMPETENCY | Irrigated fodder production |
| CRP | WLE |
| HUB | N/A |
| PREREQUISITE | N/A |
| ***TRAINING LANGUAGE*** | English but translated to Dagbani for the benefit of the farmers |
| **LIST OF MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED** | Planting materials |
| **TRAINING METHODS APPLIED** (Methods include: lecture, field visit, panel discussion, multimedia presentation, group practice, etc.) | The training included lecture, field visit and discussions. |
| **EXPECTATIONS EXPRESSED BY THE PARTICIPANTS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE COURSE** | To understand more about fodder production and agriculture in general |
| HOW FAR HAVE THE EXPECTATIONS BEEN MET? | The expectations were met. Some of the questions (Q) and answers (A) at  the end of training were as follows.  QI: Should the site for cultivation be a rice field (waterlogged) of maize  fields (well-drained soil).  A1: The maize fields will be appropriate since napier grass does not thrive  well in water logged areas  Q2: Is planting going to be by seed or cuttings?  A2: By cutting  Q3: Who takes the harvested fodder?  A3: It will be harvested and fed to sheep to monitor their growth (Part of  students work)  Q4: Will there be the need for fencing?  A4: Farmers should do well to provide protection against grazing animals  since fencing was not captured in the budget  Q5: Will each farm be provided with a well?  A5: Depending on the distance between farms, farmers may be grouped and well drilled for each group. |
| **CHALLENGES/BARRIERS ENCOUNTERED** | There were no challenges encountered. |
| **LESSONS/RECOMMENDATIONS** | Land preparation is underway and planting will be done later this week around 15 August 2015. |
| **OVERALL COST OF HOLDING THE TRAINING** | GHC525 |
| ***ATTACHMENT:***   1. Calendar 2. List of training materials 3. List of Participants 4. Result of training evaluation 5. Photos 6. Others |  |
| Training program |
| 2 power point files |
| 1 file |
| NA |
| NA |
| 4 photos of participants |